# **MINUTES**

OF THE

# FIFTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION

North)

OF THE

# LIBERTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH THE

# Church at Mount Zion

Madison Co., Alabama

September 12, 13, 14, and 15

1895

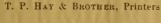
#### **OFFICERS**

Moderator, Dr. J. P. HAMPTON, Meridianville, Ala. Clerk, PERRY HENDERSON, Athens, Ala.

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD

Dr. J. P. HAMPTON, Chairman R. E. PETTUS, Sec'y and Treas. Rev. OSCAR HAYWOOD Rev. H. E. RICE R. P. WHITMAN J. M. Gooch

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## AMERICAN BAPTIST PUBLICATION SOCIETY.







The delegates composing the Liberty Baptist Association met at Mt. Zion Church, Madison County, Ala., on Sept. 12th, 1895.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Elder J. W. Sandlin by reading as lesson the 18th chapter of Matthew,

Moderator, Dr. J. P. Hampton, not being present on account of sickness, Bro. R. E. Pettus was elected as Moderator pro tem. His remarks on taking the chair, touching the absence of Dr. J. P. Hampton, were heautiful and sympathetic

The introductory sermon was preached by Elder Oscar Haywood, from 1st chapter, 2-3-4 verses of the epistle of James. At the conclusion of which the prayer was led by Elder A. G. Moseley.

After an hour and a half intermission, the Association re-assembled for the transaction of business. Elder H. E. Rice led in prayer.

The Moderator appointed bretheren R. P. Whitman and M. B. Neece as Reading Clerks.

The churches were called alphabetically and responded by delegates as follows:

By motion, Athens Church was dropped from the roll in pursuance to an order that any Church that did not report for three successive meetings be dropped from the roll.

BUELAH CHURCH by delegates—Ery Taylor, J. W. Carroll and C. C. Carroll.

CHARITY -J. H. Goforth and J. W. Tanner.

DALLAS AVENUE-Elders A. E. Burns, A. G. Mosely and R. E. Pettus and R. P. Whitman.

FIRST CHURCH AT HUNTSVILLE—Rev. Oscar Haywood, M. B. Neece, and J. C. Jones.

Locust Grove—W. A. Miller, T. H. Bayless, W. R. Branon, and G. T. Wilson.

Mt. Zion-Elder J. W. Hilliard, Joseph Atkins, J. S. Bronaugh, G. W. Vaughn, W. H. Fowlkes, J. M. Hilliard J. J. Blackman, and Joe Bridges.

NEW MARKET-H. E. Rice.

NEW ZION-Elder N. D. Crutcher, Wesley Dublin, and J. T. Clift.

POPLAR CREEK—was also ordered dropped from the list of Churches.

OAKLY-J. J. Stone and John Scivley.

PINEY GROVE—Eppie Gatlin, J. T. Hargrove and J. N. Whitt.

ROUND ISLAND-Perry Henderson and Johnie G. Stewart,

TEMPERANCE OAK-D. C. Rainsey, A. M. McLemore, Albert Poteet and J. F. Rose.

UNITY—dropped from the roll.

Union Grove-G. W. Taylor and Rev. L. W. Taylor.

WALNUT HILL--L. T. Thorn, A. D. Roberts and J. B. Jackson.

After enrollment of delegates, a permanent organization was had by electing a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer. Dr. J. P. Hampton, though absent, was nominated by R. P. Whitman, and elected as Moderator by acclamation. R. P. Whitman placed in nomination Bro. R. E. Pettus as Moderator, pro tem, who was unanimously chosen.

Perry Henderson was re-elected by acclamation as Clerk and Treasurer.

Upon call for petitionary letters, Charity Church reported by delegates A. J. Perry, Leonard Cagle, and asked to become a member of our body which was received as Charity East. The Charity Church formerly belonging to this body known as Charity was termed Charity West. Moved by brother Jones, that all visiting bretheren be invited to seats. The right hand of fellowship was then given by the Moderator.

Upon call for Correspondents, Elders A. E. Burns of the State Mission Board and J. W. Sandlin of Mussel Shoals Association responded and were invited to seats with us.

The following Committees were appointed by the Moderator.

On Religious service to report on call—the Pastor and deacons of Mt, Zion Church.

On Synopsis of Church Letters:-- M. B. Neece, T. E. Thorne and M. O. Pettus.

On Finance: -J. C. Jones, John G. Stewart and G. T. Wilson.

The various subjects, upon which Committees were appointed at last Association to report upon, were called, and vacancies filled by appointment by Moderator.

By motion of R. P. Whitman, the subject of Missions be discussed just after devotional exercises to-morrow morning. Carried.

By Elder Oscar Haywood—That this body meet at 9:30 a. m. for devotional exercises adjourn at 12 m., meet at 1:30 p. m., adjourn at will, meet at 7:30 p. m. Carried.

Report of Pastor and Deacons of Mt Zion Church.

Preaching to-night by Elder J. W. Sandlin; Friday at 7:30 p. m. by Elder A. G. Mosely; Sunday at 11 a. m. by Rev. Oscar Haywood; Sunday School mass meeting Sunday at 10 o'clock, led by R. E. Pettus.

#### REPORT OF CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE.

Your Committee appointed at the last session of our Association, to conduct a campaign of Missions among our Chucrhes, submit the following:—Visited fifteen Churches, held forty-six services, had fifteen map lectures by Evanglist Burns, collected for Missions, cash, \$46,08, pledges \$180.55. The sermons, talks, songs, and prayers at all of the services

were directed towards the development of Church work and Missions.

Much help was rendered to the committee by Pastors and laymen of the Association.

The people received us kindly and we feel that good was accomplished.

Respectfully submitted,

A. G. Moseley,

Sec.

Report adopted.

By motion of J. C. Jones, Association adjourned until 7:30 p.m. Congregation assembled at the hour appointed, Elder J. W. Sandlin occupying the stand, read as lesson 5th chapter, 2nd Corrinthians.

Text 17th verse, 5th chapter, 2nd Corrinthians.

"Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things have past away; behold all things are become new."

At the close of sermon, prayer was offered by Elder A. E. Burns.

#### SECOND DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. The devotional exercises were led by Elder F. M. Hutchison by reading as lesson 14th chapter of John.

The hour for business having arrived the Moderator called Association to order.

Minutes of yesterday's proceedings were read by the clerk, corrected and approved.

As the subject of Missions was set for this hour, a motion was made by M. B. Neece, and carried, that the reports be read separately upon each subject, and discussed separately as read.

#### REPORT OF FOREIGN MISSIONS.

(READ BY BRO. J. C. JONES.)

At this advanced stage of the work there is found no place in such a report as this to answer the questions—"Can the heathen be saved without the Gospel?" "Are Christian missions a failure?" and other similar questions. These questions are answered, never to be asked seriously again. A man who calls himself a Christian, and stands opposed to missions, is a curiosity in a progessive Christian community. He is a man born three centuries behind his time, a wanderer out of the dark ages, a man like the demoniac of Gadara, whose dwelling is among the tombs, a man who knows not "the things which have come to pass in these days." The religion of Christ is essentially a missionary religion, and a man who has not caught the missionary spirit has not caught the spirit of Christianity.

The best and highest of all reasons that we should give our energies and means for the furtherance of this cause is that lovalty to Christ demands it. As Baptists we axalt our lovalty to Christ. When he commands all men everywhere to repent, we repent; when he commands the penitent believer to be baptized, we follow the Master down into the water; when we read that he restricted the supper to baptized belivers, we are the strictest of the strict constructionists. We boast our lovalty to Christ, but are we loval? When he says: "Go ve into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature," practically, if not in theory, we set ourselves in open rebellion. Missions with us is a sentiment, and not a practice. We belong largely to that class of whom Judson said: "His hands were nearly shaken off, and his hair nearly shorn off, by those who would willingly let missions die." We shed copious tears when we hear the sad stories of the privations and sufferings of the missionaries, but we do not give our dollars to relieve them. Loyalty to Christ, when eighteen Christian centuries look down upon us, and we have not yet gotten away from Jerusalem. We are now holding the fifty-eighth session of the Liberty Association with a constituency of about sixteen hundred mem-

bers, and by reference to the pages of our history we will find, to our shame, that we have given not one single missionary to the foreign field. According to the financial exhibit printed in the journal of the last session, the 20 churches constituting this body gave for the year 1804 twenty dollars to this cause, and seventeen out of this number gave nothing. In view of these figures one of three things is true; 1st. Our people are poverty stricken, and need a government appropriation to save them from starvation and beggarly nakedness; or, 2nd, they are living in benighted ignorance as to the needs and eternal importance of trying to save the heathen; or, 3rd, knowing the importance of the matter, they are inhumanly deaf and unfeeling to the cries of suffering men. One of these three conditions confronts us. The first is unreasonable. The church members of this Association may not be rich, they may not be like Dives in point of wealth and luxury, neither do they lie at any man's door, and beg like Lazarus, for the crumbs that fall from his hand. This valley that flashes and beams like a diamond on the bosom of the earth is one of the most productive in the land, and if the people do not at least live well it is their fault. Let us hope, in face of all these stubborn facts, that the third condition is not true. The native instincts of humanity, aside from the higher impulse inspired by our blessed faith, are enough to awaken within us a spark of sympathy for the oppressed, benighted, and superstitious. Your committee, therefore, are forced to conclude that the lethargy and inactivity of our people are the legitimate consequences of ignorance upon the subject of Foreign Missions. The cause of this ignorance lies at somebody's door. Upon whom shall we charge it? Is the teacher to blame? Is the pupil to blame? In the light of the facts upon whose shoulders does the responsibility rest? The one who reads this report has been taught from childhood to respect the ministry. He was horn in Virginia, from whose hills and Valleys have gone the brightest rays of pulpit light, and in his heart he honors and loves the brave men who sow the seed of Gospel truth, and who will come back in the great future with their bosoms filled with sheaves. Our people follow the preacher as the sheep the shepherd. The fact cannot be disguised, the people rise no higher than their leaders, the pupil does not over-reach the instructor. Our people are submissive and teachable, easily instructed, and pursuaded, in the ways of truth and errors. If they fail in the discharge of duty, it is largely because the guide fails to show them the way. If they are indifferent, it is because the preacher is not enthusias-If they are ignorant, it is because the pastor is uninformed, or, being informed, fails for one reason or another to impart instruction. We indict the ministers, pastors, Sunday school superintendents and teachers for negligence of duty and carelessness of responsibility, and for blindfolding the people who in the providence of God have been placed under

their guardianship. We arraign them before this body of their brethren, and charge them before God that they must give an account of their stewardship. The pastors of the Liberty Association have been censured for avaricious selfishness. It is a matter of notoriety that they fear to take collections for benevolence because they apprehend their own salaries will suffer thereby. We are not able to sustain this remark, and the mention made of it here is not intended to give it dignity. In the light of the foregoing statistics we are unable to contradict it. If it is untrue, your committee would respectfully urge them to deny it and denounce it as infamous. We would at the same instance request our bretheren to give us a valid, reasonable excuse for the failure of seventeen churches to contribute a widow's mite for foreign missions

Respectfully submitted,

J. C. JONES, G. W. TAYLOR, W. E. PETTUS.

Upon motion to adopt the report, the following bretheren made speeches to wit:

Elders Oscar Haywood, J. W. Hiliard, A. G. Mosely, N. D. Crutcher, A. E. Burnes, J. W. Sandlin, Bro. R. E. Pettus, Rev. W. W. Lee, Elders J. A. Eaves, H. E. Rice and F. M. Hutchison, at the close of the discussion the report was adopted.

Rev. W. W. Lee, pastor of Scottsboro Church and Prof. J. M. Mclver of Tennessee River Association, and Joseph Shackelford of Mussel Shoals Association were invited to seats.

By motion, the report of Executive Committee was read as follows:

#### REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Executive Committee has held two meetings since the last Association; one in October and one in March. Dr. J. P. Hampton was re-elected Chairman and R. E. Pettus was re-elected Secretary and Treasurer.

We feel that the Churches of our Association should be under lasting obligations to those of our bretheren who have rendered such faithful services while conducting a series of Mission Rallies within our bounds, which if followed up by others, will result in untold benefit to our cause.

We most urgently insist that our Churches make more liberal pledges for the support of the various interests of our denomination and that they collect and pay them to the Treasurer of this Board in a more systematic way.

The antiquated custom of waiting to carry up the pledges to the Association should be abolished. The amount should be paid all though the year and the vouchers sent up to the next meeting of the Association.

We deplore with shame-facedness the fact that so many individuals and Churches too will make pledges and forget them. Bretheren, the Good Book says "vow and pay your vow". If any Churches have failed to pay the amount they pledged at the last Association, they owe it still and are duty-bound to pay it, or else how can we as your Board transact your business in an acceptable manner.

Because of the small amount pledged at our last Association for Missions, we have not employed any one to do the special Mission work as heretofore, but have sent the funds collected to the State Board of Missions.

We desire here to express our gratitude to this Board for employing at its expense and sending such an efficient and consecrated Evangelist among us as Rev. A. E. Burns. His efforts have been a regular schooling for our people; they are realizing as never before the importance of the greatest of all works of our denomination, the Missions work.

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

				DR.	CR.
То	balance	on hand	last	Association \$ 39 71	
	amount	received	on	Ministerial Education 58 21	
		64		State Missions 91 94	
	**	44	• •	Foreign Missions 51 38	
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Praying for a more gracious out-pouring of the Holy Spirit during

the coming year than we have yet witnessed, and that our people may be awakened to a fuller sense of their duty, we are fraternally,

J. P. Hampton, Chairman, R. E. Pettus, Secretary, Rev. Oscar Haywood, Rev. H. E. Rice, R. P. Whitman, J. M. Gooch.

On motion, the report was received and referred to the Finance Committee for auditing.

On motion, the Association adjourned until 1:30 P. M. Prayer by Elder A. E. Burns,

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

At 1:30 P. M. the Association was called to order by singing. Prayer by Dr. Joseph Shackelford.

#### REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS

Our Home Mission Board is doing a good work for the Master. It is our duty to support and foster Home Missions, because we owe it to our own household. Therefore we urge upon our churches to aid the board in their work of spreading the Gospel of Christ.

The Alabama Baptist and the Home Field furnish much wholesome information on this subject.

Respectfully,

H. E. RICE.

On motion, to adopt the report, Elders A. G. Mosely, Joseph Shackelford, W. W. Lee, J. W. Sandlin, H. E. Rice and Oscar Haywood, made short but appropriate speeches on the subject. By motion, adopted.

Pleasant Valley Church reported by Delegate, J. A. Eaves.

## REPORTS ON STATE MISSIONS.

The Mission work in Alabama is supervised by the State Board of Missions, the members of which are selected by the Baptists of the State in their annual convention.

The work for the past twenty years has been directed towards the development of the Mission spirit, the building up of weak churches in important centers, the establishment of new churches, the organization of Sunday Schools, and the bringing together of our people in united actions.

During the years of Alabama's mineral boom, the energies of the Board were directed in an effort to establish and maintain Baptist principles in the towns that were springing up as by magic over the State, and how wisely it was done is attested by the many self-sustaining, missionary churches in these towns.

But now, that this need has to a great extent been met, the purpose is to work among the country churches and small towns, and in pursuance of this plan, several strong men are employed, to devote their entire time each to a given section of the State.

Of the meritorious work of Rev. A. E. Burns, who labors in the counties of the Tennessee Valley, we know well, and other portions of the State have received similar service from men employed in like capacity.

Your committee gives its full indorsement to the policy of the Board and recommend

1st "That the churches of this Association take a public collection for Missions every month."

and "That the clerks of the churches promptly forward the amount of the collections whether large or small to Rev. W. B. Crumpton, Secretary of State Board of Missions. Each Church will thus run an account with the Board direct, and the vouchers received will be sent to the Associational meetings, that the committee on finance may use them in making their report.

Respectfully submitted.

A. G. Moseley, Chairman.

F. M. HUTCHINSON.

J. W. RIDDLE.

Speeches were made by Elder A. G. Mosely, Bro. R. P. Whitman and Elder A. E. Burns, who made a lengthy and strong appeal, at the close of which the Report was adopted.

By motion of Elder A. G. Mosely, pledges were called for Missions from Churches which resulted as follows:

#### PLEDGES BY CHURCHES.

Bethel\$	2 50	New Zion	8 00
Beulah	5 00	Oaklev	3 00

Charity West 2 0	o Piney Grove 5 00
Charity East	Pleasant Valley 3 00
1st. C. H'ville, for all objects 200 o	o Round Island 7 50
Dallas Ave. " " " 1500	Temperance Oak 5 00
Locust Grove 10 0	o Union Grove 21 00
Mt. Zion 50 c	o Unity
Madison	Walnut Hill 5 00
New Market 3 oo	
Total pledges fro	m Churches \$480.00.
Individual Pledges and Cash v	vere taken as follows:
Sister Carrie Burwell\$5 o	o J. M. Gooch\$1 00
Sister C. H Pettus 2 o	o M. O. Pettus, (pd) 1 00
S. W. Pettus 2 c	o Sister Lilly Brumley, (pd) 1 00
W. E. Pettus 2 of	o M. A. Miller, (pd) 1 00
Sister Annie L. Brumley 5	o W. T. Alten, (pd) 50
Sister Allie Pettus 1 o	o Public Col 3 11
Sister Ann Jones 5	o Mrs. S. E. Hilliard, (pd) 25
F M. Hutchison State Mis 10	o A. D. Roberts State Mis 1 00
T. E. Thorn State Mis 1 of	o T. E. Thorn, For. Mis 1 00
Total Individ	ial Pledges, \$24 86.

#### REPORT ON SYNOPSIS OF CHURCH LETTERS

We your Committee on Synopsis of Church Letters, beg leave to make this report.

We find, upon examination of the letters, a decided improvement along all lines, except our denominational papers. While our bretheren are becoming more liberal towards Missions and Education, there seems to be a disposition among our Baptist people not to read our denominational papers. This is an important matter, and we should feel it a duty incumbent upon us to make a better showing at our next gathering. Let us not feel that we have done our best on Missions, but strive to increase our donations as the Lord prospers us. We can and must improve. We recommend that all Churches use printed blanks for Church letters.

Respectfully submitted,

M. B. NEECE, T. E. THORN. M. O. PETTUS.

# STATISTICS OF LIBERTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, 1895.

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	PASTOR.	Limestone N. D. Crutcher, Madison, W. I. Jacks,	oply)	A. G. Moseley,	H. E. Rice,	J. L. Thompson, N. D. Crutcher.	R. N. O'Neal, N. D. Crutcher,	J. I. Stockton, F. M. Hutchison,	C. Howell, F. M. Hutchison,	F. M. Hutchison, W. Pitman		
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	CH URCHES. County.	Beuláh, Charity.	Charity, (East)	Dallas Ave	Locust Grove	New Market,	Oakley, Pinev Grove,	Round Island,	Udion Grove,	Pleasant Valley,	TOTAL,	

#### REPORT ON RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

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Dear Brethren:—We beg leave to submit the following as our report on religious literature.

The age in which we live finds man a restless nervous and hustling creature. It finds the minds of all classes filled with business, and every hour occupied with financial problems. We eat in a hurry, take up a few spare moments in looking over the markets, and then with a burdened mind and a loaded stomach, we rush headlong into our daily avocations, reaching out and grasping at every opportunity to advance their financial interest, forgetting that all important question of-How shall I aid in advancing the Master's cause?. It is not only legitimate for us to keep posted in the markets and to understand the issues of the day, but it is the duty of all classes of both sexes to acquaint themselves with these matters, so as not to be a drone upon a business and political country. But the question comes,-why is it that men and women fail to give their time and attention to religious literature; why is it we fail to place in the hands of our children and those we have an influence over such books and papers, the reading of which will make them better citizens, and aid in prepareing their souls for an endless eternity? It is a duty as much devolving upon us to seek the good literature for our children, as to seek for them a healthy location or wholesome food; for in the end, if we have failed along the line of religious books and papers, the chances are, the climate and food will amount to nothing.

What shall we read in our families? Aside from the Bible, there is enough religious literature published by the Baptist denomination of this country to furnish reading matter for us and our children, to a ripe old age. Brethren, let us throw away our trashy stuff, and put into our homes, such substantial papers as The Alabama Baptist. Western Recorder, and Christian Examiner, and then be sure to add to that list, the Mission Journal. Learn something of what the Baptists of Alabama are doing, and the Baptists of the West, and see how your grand old denomination is winning the world for Christ, and then your homes will have these Baptist papers in them that will make you feel proud that you are a Baptist, and be instrumental in bringing your children and friends into the grand old Baptist denomination.

With the Bible in our hearts and these religious papers in our heads, the devil will flee, and Christ will rule supreme.

Respectfully submitted,

M. B. NEECE, C. F. McCormack, E. Robbins.

Upon motion to adopt, Elders J. W. Sandlin, J. W. Hilliard and R. P. Whitman and Elder Oscar Hayood, and W.W. Lee, made short talks on the

subject of literature at the close of which the report was adopted. Announced that Brother A. G. Mosely would preach to-night at 7:30, and Brother W.W. Lee tomorrow at 11 a.m. Adjourned. Prayer by W.W. Lee.

At 7:30 p.m. after the usual preliminery exercises were held, Rev. A, G. Moseley read as lesson 8th chapter of 2nd Corrinthians. Prayer by Rev. A. E. Burns, Text from latter clause of 7th verse, 8th chapter of 2nd Corrinthians.

At close of the sermon, a collection in cash and pledges was taken for Missions as mentioned on Page 10.

By motion, the Association adjourned until 9:30 a.m. to-morrow. Prayer by R. E. Pettus

#### THIRD DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

The Association met at 9:30 a.m. Devotional exercises were led by Rev. J. W. Hilliard after which the Association was called to order by the Moderator.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Bethel reported by letter and delegates J. B. Williams and W. P. Webster

Bros. R. P. Whitman, G. T. Wilson and J. G. Stewart were appointed to correct the report of the Committee on Finance.

The Chairman of the Committee on Education being absent, Dr. Shackelford was granted the privilege of making the report of the Trustees of Danville School.

#### REPORTS OF DANVILLE SCHOOL.

Dear Brethren:—The Trustees of the North Alabama Baptist Collegiate Institute and Normal School at Danville, Ala., beg leave to make this their third annual report to your body.

During the second session of the School, there were enrolled seventy six pupils, of whom thirty five were males and fifty one were females.

The Commencement exercises last June passed off well, and the students performed their parts well—we had one full graduate. The Trustees, at their meeting in June elected Prof. D. F. Green, as President of the Institution, in place of Dr. Jos. Shackelford, who declined a re-election. Prof. Green comes to us very highly recomended by Dr. Murphy, President of Marion Military Institute. He is a graduate of that Institute. He will be assisted by Miss Jackson in the Primary Department, who will

also take charge of the Music Department. She has taken lessons in both the Musical Conservatory at Nashville and at Boston.

We consider the prospects for the success of our School better now than they ever have been. The present Session opened on the 2nd of September, we now have 43 pupils entered with prospects of a considerable increase in a short time, we are better prepared now to give instructions than we have hitherto been. The trustees have purchased some Globes, Maps, Charts and other School appliances which will very much assist the teachers in imparting instructions. Type-writing and a full course of Book Keeping will be taught along with Commercial law. We are sorry that your Association has not patronized our School. As the only Baptist School in North Alabama, it appears to all Baptists in our Association who intend to send away their children from home to be educated, to send them to this School, that offer inducements equal to any other School of the same grade in the State.

The time of the following Trustees appointed by our body expires at this Association, viz: Dr. John P. Hampton, and Rev. J. T. Stockton. We trust you will either re-appoint these brethren, or appoint others in their place.

The Trustees have contracted a small debt, depending upon the subscriptions secured from brethren in our Association and the other Association to which this School belongs. A little more than one half of the subscriptions have been collected. We would be glad that every brother who subscribed to the School would pay the same. We owe about \$125,00, if the brethren who subscribed, would pay their subscriptions, we would have more than enough to pay our indebtedness. This indebtedness is for School appliances.

Respectfully submitted,

W. H. Simpson President, T. L. Baker, Secretary.

Danville Ala., Sept 6th 1895.

Elder Joseph Shackelford made a good speech in behalf of the Danville School, at the close of which the report was adopted.

#### REPORT ON EDUCATION.

Robert Hall said: "If you want to keep a secret put it in an annual report." A great many valuable statistics, many proverbs and much philosphy have found unknown graves in reports of Associational committees. A large weighty report on education is unnecessary, because all people readily acknowledge the importance of education. It is useless for it would not be read. Facts are better than philosophy, and figures

better than rhetoric

Facts—The Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, Woman's Missionary Union and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, are the few several agencies through which the Southern Baptist Convention is operating. Dr. Whitsitt in a letter to the writer says: "All of these are supposed to be better known to the denomination than the Seminary." Numbers of our people, even in the more enlightened sections have not become aware of its existence to say nothing of its history and merits. That statement was a surprising revelation to me. A great institution whose foundations were laid by the saintly hands of Boyce, Broadus, Manly and Williams in so recent a year as 1859 unknown to Baptists and unknown to intelligent Baptists.

The President at the Seminary who for thirty years played the role of our great commander, who was the leading force in our counsels and history, John A. Broadus, died on the 16th of last March. Devout men carried him to his burial and made great lamentations for him. The foremost leader of our history, great in the might of his gentleness has passed away from us. In addressing the Southern Baptist Convention, recently in Washington, a speaker said. "When you who are here shall be aged and feeble men and women, little children will gather about your knees with reference and delight to look upon one who has seen and heard and spoken with John A. Broadus." Yet before the first coat of grass on his new made grave has perised under the frost we are told by one who is in position to know that there are Baptists of information who do not know of the existence of the institution whose equipments, struggles and glory are becoming known throughout the christian world. The purpose of the Seminary is to educate our ministry to furnish our Churches with educated men, qualified pastors and preachers. During the year our people are asked to contribute to this end.

Howard College is the property of the Baptists of Alabama. Without it the denomination would not be efficient in any particular. It appeals to the hearts of all our people, especially that branch of the college which has undertaken the education of young preachers. This may be called an age of specialists. That however is only another way of saying that men chose some special profession in life, and then set themselves to special preparation for their chosen work. The preacher is a specialist in the highest sense, and he is to deal with the master-piece of God's workmanship, the human soul. The time was when men spoke lightly of ministerial education, but that time has gone not to return. If knowledge and education were as useful and effectual machinery in the hands of men in other pursuits, much more to him who teaches the Bible. Howard College proposed to educate the poor boy who is aspiring to preach, and make him worthy of his heavenly mission. To this end an appeal is made to

all the churches and to each individual member for assistance. We recommend in the highest terms Judson's Female Institue, which for the education of girls and young women is not second, nor in any sense is it inferior to any school within reach.

We make mention, with great pleasure, of The North Alabama Normal Academy, which is the child of this Association.

Figures—The Baptists, according to the authenticated statistics, have more money invested in education than any Protestant denomination in the United States. No well informed man will question this statement.

The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary is the largest institution of the kind in America. There were enrolled last year two hundred and sixty-seven students, eight of whom were from Alabama. Nineteen young men were given free tuition and board by the State Board of Missions at Howard College during the past year, and six at the Seminary. According to the letters the churches of the Association have paid \$102.59 this year for all educational purposes in contrast with \$86.00 for the closing year.

Respectfully submitted,

OSCAR HAYWOOD,

On motion to adopt, Elders A. G. Moseley A. E. Burns, W. W. Lee, Prof. J. M. McIver, and Dr. Joseph Shackelford, made good speeches, at close of which, the report was adopted. Pending the discussion, the hour for preaching having arrived, by motion of Rev. Oscar Haywood, preaching was dispensed with and the subject of Education continued. A collection by pledges and cash was taken as follows:

#### PLEDGES BY CHURCHES.

Beulah \$2	\$2 00 Piney Grove \$	2 00
Huntsville 60	o oo R. Island	2 00
Dallas Avenue 40	o oo Union Grove 19	0 00
Locust Grove	5 oo Bethel	1 00
Mt Zion 10	o oo Walnut Hill	3 00
New Market	Oakley	2 00
New Zion 2	2 00	

Pledges by Churches \$139 00.

#### PLEDGES BY INDIVIDUALS.

	0	<del></del>
W. L. Hillard \$	\$ 50	Lon Norwood
Mrs. Dr. Burwell (pd) 1	00	J. M. Gooch (pd) 50
Mrs. John Brumley (pd) 1	00	Mrs. J. W. Hilliard (pd) 3 00
		Morrice Crutcher 2 00
Mrs. Allie Pettus 1	00	D. W. Jones (pd)

Mrs. James Thompson	00	J. H. Brouaugh 1 00
M. A. Phillips	50	J. W. Carroll (pd) 50
David Wall	50	G. A. Johnson 50
Mrs. David Wall	50	Thomas Congo 25
J. M. McIver (pd)	50	L. S. Toon 1 00
J. J. Blackman	25	F. M. Hutchinson 1 00
S. W. Pettus (pd)	25	D. L. Ramsey (pd) 1 00
G. W. Vaughan (pd)	50	J. F. Rose (pd)
L. W. Taylor (pd)	25	A. D. Roberts 1 00
W. W. Looter	25	A. M. McLamore 1 00
J. C. Irwin	25	John Jackson 1 00
J. B. Vasser	50	J. S. Bronaugh 50
R. F. Balch (pd)	25	Cash (pd) 10
Mrs. M. E. Riddle	25	M. A. Taylor (pd)
Albert Poteet (pd)	25	Sister Ola Clark (pd) 25
Jim Kelly, Jr		T. C. Thorn, Pledge 1894 (pd) 1 00

The Association then adjourned untill 1:30 p. m. Benediction by Dr. Jos. Shackelford.

Cash and Individual Pledges \$29.10.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment and the following Amendments to the constitution were offered by R. P. Whitman.

Resolved 1st, that article 4 of the Constitution of Liberty Association, as recorded on page 33 of the minutes of 1894, shall be so amended as to read, this Association shall be composed of representatives from the churches in this union.

Each church shall be entitled to three representatives, and if over one hundred, one additional delegate for every 50 members or fractional part thereof, that all ministers of the Gospel who are pastors of a church or churches in this Association, be recognized as members of this Association, without reference to the above representation.

Resolved 2nd—That article 7 be so amended as to read as follows: The delegates, when convened, shall organize themselves into a deliberative body, by the election of a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer. These officers shall be elected by ballot, at each annual meeting, and shall continue in office until their successors are chosen.

That the Moderator, with the concurrence of the Executive Board, shall have power to call a meeting at any time and place, which meeting shall, when convened, have all the powers of a regular annual meeting.

Resolved 3rd.—That article 20, shall be added to said constitution as follows:

This Association shall annually elect 6 Brethren as an Executive Board, who shall transact all business left unfinished by the Association,

subject to the ratification of the Association, perform such other duties, as may be required of them, all of which they shall report to the next Association.

Resolved 4th.—Article 19 of said Constitution be so amended as to read: This Constitution may be altered or amended at a regular Session of the Association, by a majority vote of the members present, provided such amendments shall have been presented at the previous Annual Session of the Association.

Resolved, by R. P. Whitman—That the Moderator appoint a committee of three to report at each Association on young people's work. Adopted.

Report of Committee to nominate Exective Board,

We, your Committee, would recommend as Executive Board, to serve for the ensuing year, the following:

Dr. J. P. Hampton, R. E. Pettus, R. P. Whitman, J. M. Gooch, H. E. Rice and W. N. Hargrove.

And also recommend two trustees of the Danville School, Dr. J. P. Hampton and T. J. Wall.

Respectfully submitted,

A.G. Moseley, Geo. Taylor, M. A. Miller.

#### REPORT ON INTEMPERANCE.

The report on Intemperance was well prepared and read by brother R. P. Whitman, who showed its baleful influence upon nations, states, communities and individuals. The report was considered of such merit that it was suggested that it be printed in the Alabama Baptist and the secular papers of Huntsville.

The subject was discussed by Elder Oscar Havwood, A. E. Burns, Bro. R. E. Pettus and Elder J. W. Hilliard at the close of which the report was adopted.

#### REPORT ON INDIGENT MINISTERS.

We your Committee on indigent ministers, are glad to report that we have found none. But there is no subject that should reach our hearts, and excite our sympathies more readily than the one we are called on to consider. For one to give his life to the work of the ministry, living a life of self-sacrifice for God, neglecting his opportunities for laying by

something of this worlds good for his declining years, until his strength is gone, and poverty comes upon him and then not get our sympathy and assistance, the love of God surely is not in us as it should be. Now is there any service surer of its reward?

Respectfully.

S. W. PETTUS, N. D. CRUTCHER.

Report adopted.

#### REPORT ON ORPHAN'S HOME.

Read by R. E. Pettus. R. P. Whitman occupying the chair.

In all ages among all people a sympathy for the weak and helpless has ever been excited. In times like these when people have witnessed so much unrest and distrust, and while there have been such conflicts between capital and labor, in the manufacturing centers, many people have become so impoverished that aid was absolutely necessary for the preservation of life.

For caring and providing for the destitute such organizations as the United Charities have sprung up and are being fostered by philanthropic citizens all over the land. These being facts it does seem like a reflection on us as christians and as Baptists not to give our hearty support to the Orphan's Home, established at Evergreen in this State, presided over by Rev. J. W. Stewart, a most sympathetic, godly man. Besides the absolute aid necessary for feeding and clothing the inmates, which number is continually increasing, there are deferred payments on the property that must be met. This property consists of eighty acres of land with one or two large residences thereon, well situated near the town. Additional rooms and kitchens are badly needed. A letter received a few days ago from superintendent Stewart says: "We have received into the House 48 children, of whom 24 are girls and 24 are boys, and have sent out by adoption 11 and one by apprenticeship. The boys are taught to do farm work, and the girls to do various kinds of house work.

Taking into consideration that these children were picked up here and there, as they were left in destitution from various causes, it is remarkable how teachable, bright and smart they are."

We may be well fixed as far as the goods of this world is concerned this year, and next we may be in want. While we have health, means and opportunity, it is our our christian duty to provide for those who have not. For our encouragement and the benefit of the poor helpless outcast, the Saviour said: Whosoever shall give a drink unto one of these little ones, a cup of cold water only, in the name of a disciple, verily I say

unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward."

#### Respectfully,

R. E. PETTUS.

Elder A. E. Burns stated the importance of contributing to this noble institution. Bro. R. P. Whitman also made a few well timed remarks and Brother R. E. Pettus made some feeling, pathetic remarks on behalf of the ophans, after which the report was adopted.

A collection was then taken for Orphans Home which resulted as follows:

#### PLEDGES BY INDIVIDUALS AND CHURCHES.

Beulah \$1 00	W. L. Davis (pd) 50
1st Church Huntsville 25 00	J. T. Clift (pd) 50
Dallas Avenue 15 00	G. T. Wilson (pd) 25
Locust Grove 3 00	W. H. Fowlks (pd) 30
Mt Zion 3 00	S. W. Balch (pd) 25
New Zion 3 00	D. K. Wall (pd) 25
Piny Grove 1 00	J. M. Gooch (pd) 25
Round Island (pd) 1 50	R. M. Balch (pd) 50
Temperance Oak 1 00	F. M. Hutchison Pledges (pd) 50
Walnut Hill 1 00	J. W. Carrol (pd) 25
Sister L. E. Erwin pd 1 00	G. A. Dupree pd 25

Resolution by R. P. Whitman that this body tender its thanks to Mt Zion Church and community for their Hospitality and generous and hearty welcome extended to this body during their settings. Adopted by a rising vote.

#### REPORT ON WOMAN'S WORK.

The letters from the churches make no report on the organization and the work of Woman's Societies. Your committee upon investigation find that there are two woman's Missionary Societies and two Ladies Aid Societies within the bounds of the Association.

We recommend the organization of societies in which women can do their specific work. We request on behalf of the Association, that the churches report the number of women societies in their membership.

Respectfully submitted

OSCAR HAYWOOD

Upon motion to adopt, R. P. Whitman and M. B. Neece made short

talks, showing the success that women have over men in raising funds for the advancement of our work. Report adopted.

By R. P. Whitman—Resolution regarding the health of our Moderator Dr. J. P. Hampton.

Whereas, As we have learned with hearts that are clothed in sorrow of the sickness of our beloved Moderator, Dr. J. P. Hampton, thereby rendered him unable to be present with us at this session of our Association, to preside over our deliberations,

Therefore, Be it resolved that the messengers composing this body, in session assembled, do hereby extend to him our loving sympathies in his sad afflictions and at the altar of prayer petition to Him who guideth his people, that he soon may be restored to his usual health and we may still have the privilege of meeting together in many future gatherings of this Association for the purpose of advancing the cause of the Master.

Resolved 2nd—That believing in the efficacy of special prayers, that this Association now petition their Father who art in Heaven for the speedy recovery of our faithful brother, and that Rev. J. W. Hilliard lead the prayer for the special purpose.

By motion to adopt. Rev. Oscar Haywood made a pathetic talk on Bro. Hampton's condition. Bro. M. B. Neece offered an amendment in substance, that a copy of the above resolution be forwarded to Dr. Hampton in advance of the printed minutes. Resolution as amended, adopted.

By R. P. Whitman—That the chairman appoint a committee of three to nominate a campaign committee. Chairman appointed Bro. M. B. Neece, J. M. Hilliard and G. W. Taylor.

Resolution by Elder Oscar Haywood—That a committee be appointed to set on foot and arrange program, select speakers and arrange for the 5th Sunday meeting.

Committee, JIM. Hilliard M. B. Neece and L. W. Taylor.

By Elder Oscar Haywood that in lieu of preaching to night, we open a question box so that if any question exists in the mind of any brother, he may ask and have it answered. Adopted.

In addition to the regular statistics of the Dallas Avenue Church, they wish to add that they have secured a lot in West Huntsville, and erected a nice, comfortable church house thereon, costing four hundred dollars, at which they have a regular Sunday School of forty scholars, with Deacon A. M. Richie, Superintendent. The Trustees of this property are brethren R. E. Pettus, R. P. Whitman and S. M. Blair.

The time having arrived for the selection of a place at which to hold next Association, Temperance Oak and Locust Grove Churches were put in nomination, the latter having received the highest number of votes was declared the place of next meeting.

Elder A. E. Burns was selected to preach the introductory sermon

with Elder J. W. Hilliard as alternate. Adjourned till 7:30 o'clock tonight with prayer by Elder Oscar Haywood.

#### NIGHT SESSION.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment at 7:30 o'clock. Prayer was led by Elder J. W. Hilliard.

The report of the Committee to nominate a Campaign Committee was received and adopted.

We recommend the following names as the Mission Campaign Committee for the ensuing year. Rev. A. E. Burns, Rev. Oscar Haywood, Rev. J. W. Hilliard, Rev. A. G. Mosely, H. E. Rice, and Dr. J. P. Hampton.

J. M. HILLIARD, M. B. NEECE, L. W. TAYLOR.



We the Finance Committee, make the following Tabulated statement as our report: Adopted.

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	Associational Pur.	50 40 40 6 47 50 1 50 1 50	2 90 32 72 22
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AT	'DEL MILOSSHILL		98 21
CI	Ministerial Ed.	Cash 7	3 00
SS	Foreign Missions.	Vouch. 50 4 85 21 03 2 50 2 50 2 50 2 65	31 53
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FINANCIAL EXHIBIT OF LIBERTY ASSOCIATION,	CHURCHES.	ntsville sville	Madison Church

R. P. Whitman offered the following:

Resolved:—That a Committee of three be appointed to report on Prayer meeting.

The Committee announced by Moderator to report upon the various subjects at our next annual session, were as follows:

Committee on Foreign Missions:-Elder Oscar Haywood, J. T. Hargrove and J. D. Stone.

Home Missions:—N. D. Crutcher, John Stewart and W. L. Hilliard. State Missions:—A. E. Burns, G. W. Taylor and J. H. Goforth.

Education:--S. R. Butler, Leonard Cagle and F. M. Hutchison.

On Intemperance:—Elder H. E. Rice, W. F. Hornbuckle and T. 11. Bayless.

Religious Literature:—Perry Henderson, S. W. Balch and W. P. Webster.

Indigent Ministers:—C. C. Carroll, James Gilbert and W. N. Looney. Orphans Home:—Elder J. W. Ililliard, W. T. Jones and A. D. Roberts. Womans Work:—W. E. Pettus, M. A. Miller and Erie Taylor.

Young Peoples Work:-M. B. Neece, J. T. Clift and S. W. Pettus.

'Sunday School:—R. P. Whitman, J. W. Turner and Elder J. A. Parker.

Committee to prepare program for the fifth Sunday meeting:—Elder Oscar Haywood, J. W. Hilliard, R. P. Whitman, Perry Henderson and G. W. Johnson.

Committee Prayer Meeting:—J. C. Jones, T. J. Wall and J. B. Hughes. The following appointments as messengers to other bodies were made as follows:

Southern Baptist Convention—Elder A. E. Burns, Alternate Dr. J. P. Hampton.

State Baptist Convention:—Elders J. W. Hilliard, Oscar Haywood, H. E. Rice, Bro. R. E. Pettus, Dr. J. P. Hampton, Alternates Rev. Harry Pettus, Elder N. D. Crutcher.

Mussels Shoals Association—Elders J. J. Stockton and A. E. Burns. Tennessee River Association—Elders Oscar Haywood, A.G. Mosely. William Cary Association—Elders F. M. Hutchison, J. A. Eaves and N. D. Crutcher.

At the close of which, according to previous appointments the question box was opened. Questions touching Doctrines concerning our churches were propounded and satisfactorily answered by ministers and laymen. By motion, the Association adjourned with prayer by Rev. L. W. Taylor.

#### FOURTH DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

Sunday morning Sept. 15th 1895 the Association assembled at time

appointed, in Sunday School mass meeting. Prayer by Bro. R E. Pettus. The Minutes of previous meeting were read and adopted,

#### REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOL.

#### READ BY R. E, PETTUS,

The growth and influence of our Sunday School work is most gratifying. The prejudices that once existed against this mighty agent for good are fast passing away. As indolence and ignorance are replaced by religion and education our people are being awakened to a fuller sense of their christian duty. Those who have supposed all along that it was instituted by man to satisfy some religious enthusiasts, upon investigation find that God himself is its author and thus his people on the Sabbath day are commanded to gather themselves together that they may read and expound the Law.

The good that accrues to a church from a well regulated Sabbath School is of inestimable value. How much more useful is a church member who has been taught the Scriptures from his youth up, than one who has never enjoyed the precious moments in the Sunday School, but who has come into the Church with his mind crowded with matters of a worldiy nature. The mothers, who "lend their little Samuels to the Lord," are the happy mothers who bless their offspring, who bless their country. On the other hand the poor inconsiderate mothers, that "lend their children to the Devil", hardly ever have them returned, for he needs them, keeps them, uses them.

No field promises greater immediate or prospective results and no field in the Home department cries louder for attention and cultivation than the great domain of the Sunday School work.

The Sunday School should be a training school. Solomon says "train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it". Children should be taught that to be a Christian means to be like Christ; unselfish, loving, tender and true; that Christ showed forth his love for us when he died for us while we were yet sinners; that he is the central figure in the Bible; that the Old Testament, with its sacrifices, prefigured his death, while in the New Testament, with its Communion services, points back to the atonement; that faith in Him has always been the condition of Salvation; that "the chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever."

My Christian friends, "how think ye?" if a man have an hundred sheep and one of them go astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine and goeth into the mountains and seeketh that which is gone astray? "Ah how say ye that the children, and older people too, of this comunity.

of this Association, are all safe in the folds. Nay ye dare not say it, for the figures reveal the fact that, in this county alone, there are 7101 between the ages of 7 and 21, 1526 between the ages of 3 and 7 making a total of 8627. Out of this number 2627 are in the Sunday School, leaving 6000 between the ages of 3 and 21 out of the Sunday School.

Startling facts they are. Now Matt. 18: :14 "says it is not the will of our Father which is in Heaven that one of these little ones should perish." Then what are you going to do about it? for it is time you were up and doing. The Savior savs "suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not." Will you stand as stumbling blocks in their way or will you attend the Sabbath School yourself and invite them and assist them to come? I heard this story once. A consecrated Sunday School teacher had a large class of little boys and the burden of her heart was that she might lead them to the Saviour. One of them being converted desired to join the church. His father told him he had better wait six months and see if he could live his religion first. Afterwards the little fellow was in the field and found a little lamb, separated from its mother bleating piteously. The father told the son to put it with its mother, but the bright little fellow replied "I think we might leave it six months in the big field and see if it will live among the brambles and wolves; then if it lives we can put it with its mother." "This was enough for that father. The lamb was put with its mother and the child was permitted to join the church. We need the confiding trust that David had when he said "when my father and my mother forsake me, the Lord will take me up." We have but to believe and to teach his precious promises to be happy and to make others happy and useful. For aids in studying and teaching, we most heartily recommend the Southern Baptist Convention Series, which can be had by ordering through Rev. W. B. Crumpton, Secretary of the State Board of Missions at Montgomery, Ala, As Sunday School teachers and workers our leading desire should be "to covet to know and imitate Him, whose errand was to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captive, to comfort all that mourn, to give beauty for ashes and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness." Respectfully submitted,

R. E. PETTUS,

. On motion to adopt the report, Bro. R. E. Pettus, Elders A. E. Barns and J. W. Hilliard made speeches on the subject. Report Adopted.

After an intermission of 10 minutes the congregation was called together by singing. Elder Oscar Haywood occupying the stand, read as lesson 3rd chapter 1st corinthians. Prayer by Elder A. E. Burns, Text 6th verse, 22 chapter Proverbs. At the close of the sermon, a collection was taken for Missions, which amounted in cash to \$4.70.

The congregation then sang "Blest be the Tie that Binds" during which the delegates gave each other the parting hand. The Moderator

then announced that the Association was adjourned to meet at Locust Grove Church, in this county, Thursday before the third Sunday in next September.

R. E. Pettus, Moderator Pro Tem.

PERRY HENDERSON, Clerk.

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS.

- 1 Call to order by former Moderator.
- 2 Annual or introductory sermon.
- 3 Call for Church letters and enrollment of delegates.
- 4 Permanent organization by electing Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer.
  - 5 Call for petitionary letters
  - 6 Correspondents and visitors.
  - 7 Appointment of Committees by Moderator.
  - (a) On religious services, to report on call.
  - (b) On Synopsis of Church letters.
  - (c) On Finance.
  - 8 Report of Clerk and Treasurer.
  - 9 Call for report of standing committees.
  - (a) Committee on Missions.
  - (b) Committee on Education.
  - (c) Committee on Intemperance.
  - (d) Consmittee on Religious Literature.
  - (e) Committee on Indigent Ministers.
  - (f) Report of Executive Committee.
  - (g) Committee on Sabath School.
  - 10 Appoint a place for next meeting.
  - 11 Appoint a brother to preach introductory sermon.
  - 12 Announce standing committees to report at next meeting.
  - 13 Appoint messengers to other bodies.
  - 14 Miscellaneous business.
  - 15 Adjournment.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

DR. J. P. HAMPTON, Chairman,

R. E. Pettus, Sec'y, and Treas.

R. P. WHITMAN,

W. N. HARGROVE,

J. M. Gооси,

H. E. RICE.



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